



Taking the time . . . Americans Linda and Peter Seed, who are staying in Mosgiel, prepare for their next journey around the Geraldine area.

PHOTO: CRAIG BAXTER

US cyclists put NZ on the map

By REBECCA FOX

AMERICAN Peter Seed thinks New Zealanders are missing the boat by not getting out and enjoying the countryside by bicycle, so has produced a series of maps to encourage people to do so.

He supports the idea behind the annual Bike Wise Month and today's national Go Bike Day and has produced his maps with New Zealanders, as much as tourists, in mind.

The 11 maps cover bike rides on sealed back roads from Dunedin to Christchurch and include detailed directions and information on accommodation.

"We wanted to do something

for the pleasure of New Zealanders. It's a priceless way to spend family holidays or go with a group of friends."

He and his wife, Linda, who are both in their 70s and divide their time between Minnesota and Florida, had tried the routes on their annual cycling holidays to New Zealand during the past 10 years.

"Frankly, I thought some of the scenery was spectacular. I think people are really missing the boat — the Kiwis."

There were the Otago Central Rail Trail and options for mountain bikers, but he had seen a gap in the market for routes on sealed roads.

Mr Seed had previously co-authored a bicycle touring book for Minnesota-Wisconsin and a walking book about the South West Coast Path in England.

In 2007, he decided to put together the New Zealand maps but the project to distribute them never "got sufficiently off the ground", he said.

He hoped this year to distribute the more than 1000 sets of the Great Southern Cycle Route free to information bureaus, bike shops and bookstores. They could also be downloaded free from www.seftonhomestay.co.nz.

• To mark Go Bike Day, a breakfast will be held in the Octagon, Dunedin, from 7am to

9am and cyclists will get the chance to try out one of the "crazy" bikes which go "backways, sideways and everyways".

Duane Donovan, of Sport Otago, said anyone was welcome to come along as long as they turned up on a bike, with a helmet.

"We're aiming to encourage as many Dunedin people as possible to leave their cars at home and try out cycling."

A Bike Wise family fun day would be held on Sunday, February 28, at Marlow Park, St Kilda. The Bike Wise Challenge, a free online competition, runs from February 1-28.

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